FIT and microFIT Guidelines: Connection Capability

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Background

The Guidelines provide further clarification of the FIT and microFIT rules on connection capability, which are designed to ensure that potential connection issues are identified as early as possible in the application and contracting process. The Guidelines will improve the application processes and better align projects with available connection capacity.

Connection Capability

There are three approaches to screening for connection capability in the FIT and microFIT programs:

Project type	Project size	Connection screening process
FIT Capacity Allocation Required (CAR)	Generally projects which are greater than 500kW	A contract is issued once a project passes the Transmission Availability Test and Distribution Availability Test (TAT/DAT) in accordance with Section 5 of the FIT Rules. A project which does not pass the TAT/DAT is considered for a contract through the Economic Connection Test process.
FIT Capacity Allocation Exempt (CAE)	Generally projects which are 500kW or less	A contract is issued if the OPA determines that the project may be able to connect in accordance with Section 2.1 (a) (v).
microFIT	Projects which are 10kW and less	A conditional offer of microFIT contract is issued by the OPA once the LDC has issued an offer to connect for the project.

Thresholds

The OPA coordinates with transmitters and local distribution companies to ensure that contracts are awarded appropriately based on available connection capability in the province. As more microFIT and FIT contracts reach commercial operation, more capacity will be used. When transmission and distribution system upgrades are made to increase capacity, it will allow more projects to come online.

In order to ensure a balance between CAR, CAE and microFIT applications, and to ensure that available connection capability is appropriately managed, the OPA applies the following thresholds in determining when a contract may be issued:

	Threshold	Eligible applications
Scenario 1	More than 5 MW can be accommodated at the connection point	CAR, CAE and microFIT applications are eligible for a contract
Scenario 2	5 MW or less can be accommodated at the connection point	Only CAE and microFIT applications are eligible for a contract
Scenario 3	2 MW or less can be accommodated at the connection point	Only microFIT applications are eligible for a conditional offer of microFIT contract
Scenario 4	0 MW can be accommodated at the connection point	No applications are eligible for a contract until the required transmission/distribution investments have been made.